

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:687

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005

LEGISLATION FOR WELFARE OF DISABLED

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Barman Shri Hiten;Ponnuswamy Shri E.;Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has 21.9 million disabled and their number is increasing across all groups as reported in the Hindu dated June 3, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor, State/UT-wise; (
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to bring out a detailed comprehensive legislation for the welfare of disabled;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to safeguard the interest of disabled?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) & (b): According to the Census, 2001, the number of persons with disabilities in the country is 21.9 million. The figures provided by the Census are only for the year 2001 and there is no comparable figure available from Census regarding the population of persons with disabilities for the previous years. Therefore, it cannot be said that there has been increase in the number of persons with disabilities over a period of time.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. The Government has enacted the following comprehensive legislations for the welfare of persons with disabilities viz (1) the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full participation) Act, 1995;

(2) The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, Act, 1999 and (3) the rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992. Details of the Acts are available on the Website viz www.socialjustice.nic.in.

(e) Does not arise.